

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A system for providing an ultrasound image of at least a part of an object or body comprising:

an ultrasound imaging apparatus;

a kit capable of producing a stabilized microbubble preparation, comprising an aqueous medium, a gas osmotic agent, at least one phospholipid surfactant having at least one acyl chain of at least 10 or more carbon atoms and at least a second surfactant, wherein upon the application of energy the phospholipid surrounds the gas osmotic agent to form a microbubble, wherein the gas osmotic agent is selected from the group consisting of perfluorobutane, perfluorocyclobutane, perfluoropentane, perfluorocyclopentane, perfluoromethylcyclobutane, perfluorohexane, perfluorocyclohexane, perfluoromethyl cyclopentane, perfluorodimethylcyclobutane, perfluoroheptane, perfluorocycloheptane, perfluoromethyl cyclohexane, perfluorodimethyl cyclopentane, perfluorotrimethyl cyclobutane, perfluoro triethylamine, perfluoropropane and perfluorohexane.

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the gas osmotic agent is selected from the group consisting of perfluoropropane and perfluorohexane perfluorobutane, perfluorocyclobutane, perfluoropentane, perfluorocyclopentane, perfluoromethylcyclobutane, perfluorohexane, perfluorocyclohexane, perfluoromethylcyclopentane, perfluorodimethylcyclobutane, perfluoroheptane, perfluorocycloheptane, perfluoromethylcyclohexane, perfluorodimethyl cyclopentane, perfluorotrimethyl cyclobutane and perfluoro triethylamine.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the kit further comprises a modifier gas selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide or mixtures thereof.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the mixture of the gas osmotic agent and modifier gas is effective to stabilize the microbubble preparation.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the modifier gas is air.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the gas osmotic agent is perfluoropropane and the second gas is nitrogen.
27. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the aqueous solution contains sterile water.
28. (currently amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the microbubble further comprises contains air.
29. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the gas osmotic agent is perfluoropropane.
30. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the kit contains a head space containing perfluoropropane gas.
31. (previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the head space contains air.
32. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the energy applied is mechanical energy.
33. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the energy applied is sonic energy.